

Configuration options are available in the *Formulas wildcards* section on the **Tools > Options > LibreOffice Calc > Calculate** dialog (Figure 244) to control the use of wildcards and regular expressions with Calc's functions. The three mutually exclusive, self-explanatory options are:

- **Enable wildcards in formulas.** This is the initial default when Calc is installed.
- **Enable regular expressions in formulas.**
- **No wildcards or regular expressions in formulas.**

A further related option in the *General Calculations* area of the same dialog, **Search criteria = and <> must apply to whole cells**, controls whether search criteria must match the whole cell exactly.

By default, regular expression searches within Calc functions are case insensitive, irrespective of the setting of the **Case sensitive** checkbox on the **Tools > Options > LibreOffice Calc > Calculate** dialog. However, for some functions regular expressions can include a flag option "(?-i)" to switch to a case sensitive match. Functions that support this facility are: AVERAGEIF, AVERAGEIFS, COUNTIF, COUNTIFS, HLOOKUP, LOOKUP, MATCH, SEARCH, SUMIF, SUMIFS, and VLOOKUP.

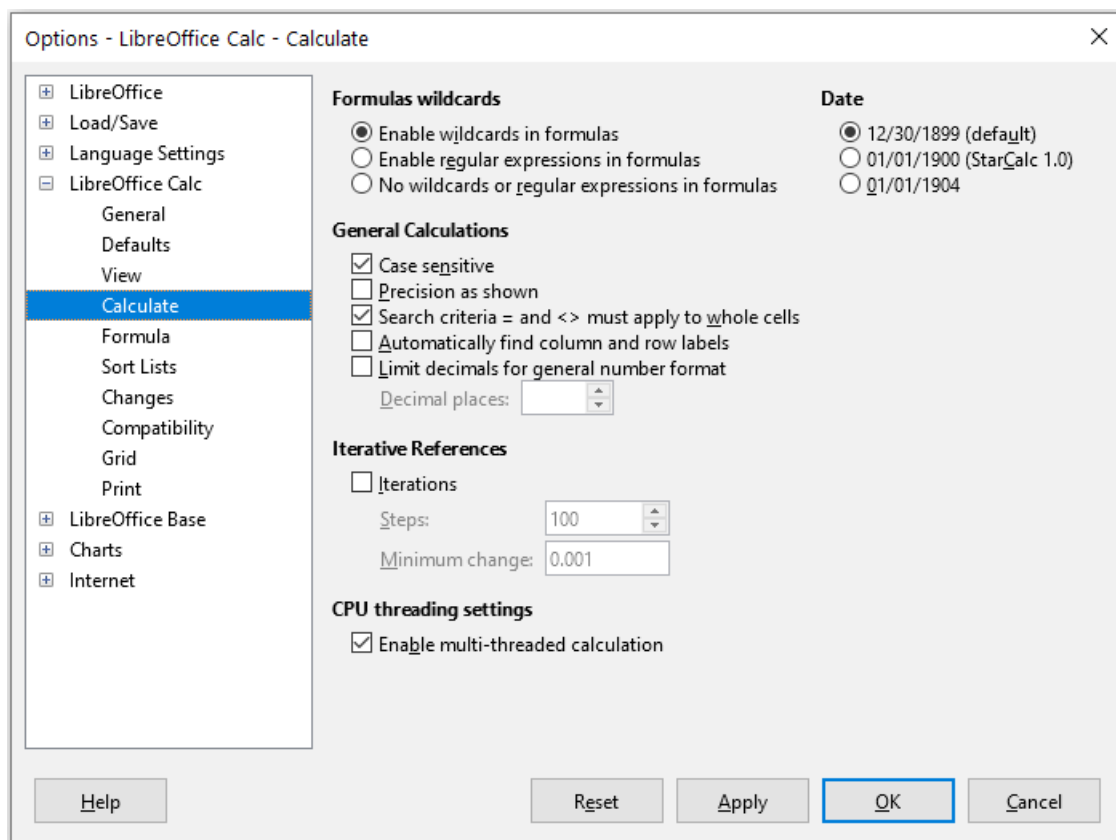


Figure 244: Tools > Option > LibreOffice Calc > Calculate dialog



Tip

When both the **Search criteria = and <> must apply to whole cells** and **Enable wildcards in formulas** options are selected, Calc behaves exactly as Microsoft Excel when searching cells in the database functions.

To illustrate some of the features of regular expressions, consider the simple spreadsheet shown in Figure 245 and assume that **Enable regular expressions in formulas** is selected on the **Tools > Options > LibreOffice Calc > Calculate** dialog.